

The key to realizing the many benefits that biofuels offer our country is to increase their use. To encourage greater use of biofuels and other alternative fuels, the Federal Government enacted legislation in the early 1990s that is speeding the use of alternatives to conventional gasoline and diesel fuels.

The Energy Policy Act of 1992 requires that many Federal, State, and fuel provider fleets gradually replace their conventionally fueled vehicles with alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). Additionally, the Clean Fuel Fleet Program (an initiative of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990) requires fleets in cities with significant air quality problems to incorporate vehicles that will meet clean fuel emissions standards. To fulfill these mandates, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) works

Why Use E85?

- It's produced domestically and strengthens local economies.
- It strengthens energy security by reducing dependence on foreign oil.
- It's clean burning and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

with industry to develop technologies for alternative fuels, such as ethanol and biodiesel, and AFVs, such as those that run on E85 (an 85 percent ethanol/15 percent gasoline fuel blend) and biodiesel.

Even though no laws currently govern public use of AFVs, flexible fuel vehicles



(FFVs) that can operate on either gasoline or on ethanol blends as high as 85 percent have been available for public purchase since 1992, and DOE has programs in place to educate the public about the benefits of their use.

Ethanol-Fueled Vehicles

Several automobile manufacturers, including Ford, General Motors, and DaimlerChrysler, produce at least one E85 vehicle. The cost of E85 flexible-fueled vehicles is comparable to that of conventionally fueled vehicles; however, two major challenges remain: the fuel costs are still quite high, and the refueling infrastructure is inadequate to support consistent use. To overcome these obstacles, DOE sponsors research to develop technologies that will lower the cost of ethanol by approximately 50 percent, and is working to place more refueling stations in select cities.

For more information, contact:

David Rodgers
DOE – Office of Technology Utilization
202.586.7182